

From: VLKBARKAN@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 11:59am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

205 Sweetwater Trace
Roswell, Georgia 30076

January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing you today to express my opinion in regards to the Microsoft settlement. I feel this debate has gone on long enough, and I feel after three years of litigation enough resources and time have been wasted on this issue. It is time to focus our attention on more pressing concerns facing us today.

I am a believer in free enterprise, and I do not think Microsoft should be penalized for doing its job well. That is the goal of every American worker. This settlement finally ends three years of litigation and will allow Microsoft to continue designing and marketing their innovative software, while no longer focusing on litigation. This settlement was reached after extensive negotiations, and Microsoft has agreed to terms that extend well beyond the original terms of the lawsuit, just for the sake of ending it. For example, Microsoft will now be required to share information regarding the nature of the internal workings of its Windows operating system, allowing them to place their programs on it. Personally I consider this akin to charging the consumer for e-mails because the post office is losing money...paying a competitor because they aren't smart enough to compete.

During these difficult times, one of our highest priorities should be to stimulate our businesses so as to strengthen our lagging economy. Please support this settlement.

Sincerely,

Victoria Barkan